



RYAN

Ryan is as Canadian as a boy can be. Ask him what he wants to be when he grows up and he'll tell you, 'An NHL General Manager.'

At one year old, Ryan was diagnosed with a heart condition that required open heart surgery. He will require additional surgeries throughout his life. As a result, Ryan lives every day with heart disease.

Even so, when the temperature drops as fall sets in Ryan takes to the ice. He loves to fly down the rink

with his friends, enjoying the sport that defines our country: hockey. A dedicated Flames fan, Ryan still has a soft spot for the Vancouver Canucks, the team of his birthplace. His love for hockey is represented by the shrine of NHL memorabilia he has in his bedroom, a collection he calls 'priceless'.

Ryan's love for hockey was the inspiration for his Wish. In February of 2016, that Wish came true. He was able to attend the NHL All-Star Game in Nashville, TN. He and his family attended the Fan Fest and the Saturday Night Party. He attended the Skills Competition, where the best hockey players on the planet showed off their abilities. He then watched the All-Star Game itself and witnessed what many are calling the best All-Star Game ever. He got to meet all the biggest stars in the game.

When the weather gets chilly, Canadians across our country head out onto the rinks and play our national winter sport. Ryan was able to fulfill the Wish that millions of youngsters have because of the generosity of our donors. Ryan's truly Canadian experience is thanks to you.

MY CHILDREN's WISH

By Captain of the ACH Dream Catchers Hockey Team

We are the DREAM TEAM! I met everyone at our first practice skate where we began training camp to prepare for the Kimmett Cup. Our team is made up a dozen amazing athletes that represent 4 families. Based on the skills, tenacity and sportsmanship, I am confident we will be ready for the big day.

As a Wish Kid, I have a huge respect for the doctors and nurses at Children's hospital. Our story is my story because it is people like my team members (doctors, nurses, and supporters of Children's Wish) and my support network, (mom's and dad's, uncles, aunts, grandma's and grandpa's) that have helped me on my life journey.

My **Dream** was to go to Nashville for the NHL ALL STAR weekend!

I have not let my health issues get in the way of my hockey passion.

I have what's known as a Congenital Heart defect, which was diagnosed when I was a month old; by the time I was four months old, I had one heart surgery, 1 open heart surgery, and heart failure that led to my first angioplasty where a stent was put into one of my main arteries. I have had 2 angioplasties since then and will require further surgery until I finish growing. I am now 17, and I am doing great!

The Wish journey began last September when we attended Exile Island, a Children's Wish event at McMahon Stadium where we participated in a number of games with the sponsors that were part of funding my wish, the Kimmett family.

A few weeks later, I received a call from the Flames, it was an invitation to come and watch the Flames practice, I met the local broadcast team and then to my surprise, was invited to the dressing room to meet my hockey hero's, Mark Giordano and Johnny Gaudreau.

My introduction to the Kimmett Cup tournament was when I was asked to be the honorary ambassador last year. My Dad, my brother and I along with a few others also played in the tournament that was 2 weeks before we were leaving for Nashville. The media were at the event, my Mom and I were interviewed which made me start to realize what an amazing organization the Children's Wish is. Jim Peplinski from the Flames Alumni was at the tournament, and Sarah was able to arrange a skate with Jim and his buddies the following Friday at the Saddledome where I met more players from the past.

It was finally time to leave for the big event. Calgary to Denver, Denver to Nashville. We saw and met players and coaches in Denver and then on our plane there was Mat Deschene, Sports Net broadcasters and we met Brian Burke. When we landed in Nashville, the fun really began as I started recognizing a number of players; the first player I met was Cory Snyder who is a super nice guy. Then I met John Scott who is huge and of course was the player the media were talking a lot about. I got a number of

autographs which as it turned out was just the beginning of the hockey souvenir's I received.

We attended a number of the public All Star Weekend events using the tickets we received from Children's Wish. The bonus we received from the NHL were a number of gifts, tickets to private events where we met players and even Garry Betman.

My whole family and I along with the Flames media person Kristen Hallett and her camera team spent time with Mark and Johnny getting know them and recorded the event to tell my Children's Wish story.

The best surprise was on the Saturday for skills day, my Dad and I were invited to the dressing rooms to meet all of the players and coaches along with GM's and some owners + the media. I couldn't believe that I had a picture with every player and they signed my white All Star jersey and my autograph book.

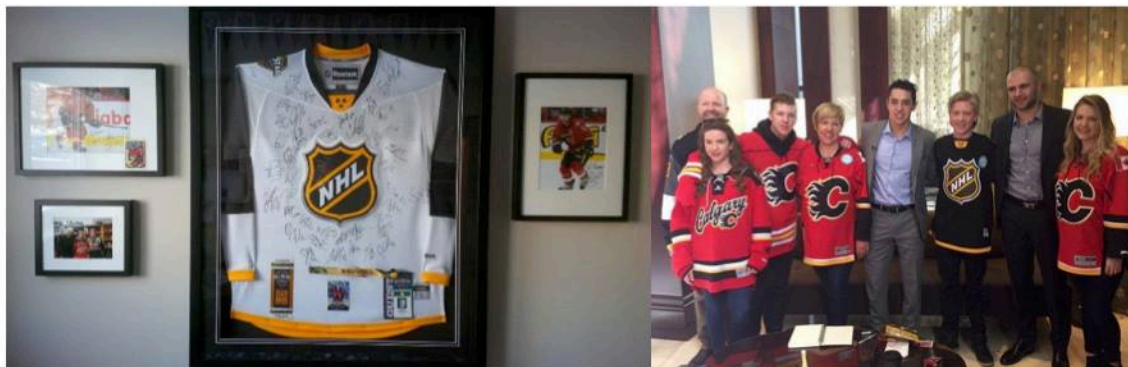
When it was time to leave Nashville we had so many amazing memories and for me, I had received so many souvenirs, autographed pictures and jerseys, shirts and hats.

In closing, I want to tell you what the Wish meant to me and my family. First, the wish I got is something I will never forget for the rest of my life. It was just so amazing! What it meant to me, is that I realized I want to work behind the scenes in professional hockey with either a team or with the NHL. After meeting and seeing a completely different perspective of the game, I think I would enjoy something to do with statistics.

What the wish meant for my family; we had a great time together, we saw great hockey, we all proudly wore our Flames jerseys, we enjoyed the people of Nashville, but most important, it was a reward for them as well as my Heart Journey has impacted my whole family.

Children's Wish makes dreams come true.

Thank you again Children's Wish and the NHL, you granted me the best wish ever. And thanks to the Kimmett family and all of the volunteers that make the tournament an amazing event so kids like me can have our dream.



Ryan